



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology  
Friday, February 7, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert, Vice President for Academic Strategy  
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1491 – RELATING TO DEPARTMENTAL DATA SHARING

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports SB 1491 to include the Department of Taxation in the list of state agencies required to share data through the statewide longitudinal data system. By formalizing data-sharing practices with the Department of Taxation, we will be better equipped to track and analyze workforce outcomes.

As it stands, UH tracks post-graduation outcomes with some limitations. The most significant gaps involve the lack of data on individuals who are federally or self-employed, leaving the analysis incomplete. By adding the Department of Taxation to the agencies that share data, UH would be able to conduct more accurate and comprehensive analyses of post-graduate outcomes and labor market trends in Hawai'i, which in turn can inform policies and programs aimed at improving educational and workforce outcomes.

More complete data means better policy decisions. We could refine workforce development programs, adjust educational curricula, and create initiatives that better prepare graduates for real-world employment scenarios, ensuring that they are competitive in both the local and global economy.

UH appreciates that the bill includes safeguards for privacy and confidentiality, ensuring that any data provided by the Department of Taxation will be aggregated or anonymized. This ensures compliance with federal privacy standards and assures the public that their personal data will remain secure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.